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Subject: Biological Evaluation

To: Forest Supervisor, Allegheny NF

Egg mass surveys were conducted for three defoliating Lepidoptera: gypsy moth (Lymantria dispar), forest tent caterpillar (Malacosoma disstria) and elm spanworm (Ennomos subsignarius). These surveys were conducted during March and April of 1997. A total of 311, 47 and 25 sites were sampled, respectively. These sites were distributed throughout the susceptible forest types of the Allegheny National Forest.

A total of 18 gypsy moth egg masses were found. These were found in concentrations of 1 to 5 per site. Each sample site represents 1/40th of an acre, when converted to a per acre number the values range from 40 to 200 egg masses per acre per site. The highest values were found in three areas of the Forest: around Tracy Ridge Campground; just south of Pine Grove Campground; and just north of where Highways 6 and 62 split between Youngsville and Warren. No detectable defoliation is expected from these populations.

The forest tent caterpillar survey located one new egg mass. This egg mass was located on the Bradford Ranger District, just off of FR279H. This insect has returned to its normal non-outbreak population levels.

No new elm spanworm egg masses were found in the surveyed areas. This insect remains at non-outbreak levels throughout the Forest.

Forest Health Protection employees will continue to monitor these insect populations. If you have any questions concerning this report please contact John R. Omer at (304) 285-1544 or J.Omer:S24L08A or jomer@mserv.fsl.wvnet.edu.



DANIEL B. TWARDUS
Acting Field Representative
Forest Health Protection

cc: Russ McKinney, R9 Liaison
District Ranger, Bradford RD
District Ranger, Marienville, RD
Barry Towers, PA BOF
Noel Schneeberger, AO

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